



Contact: Sen. Bob Jauch
608-266-3510

Senator Jauch Testimony: AB 344

August 27, 2009

This fall the Legislature will address numerous measures to address the problems of drinking and driving. This proposal is a commonsense practical response to relieve taxpayers of unnecessary costs for an individual who is arrested for OWI on Madeline Island.

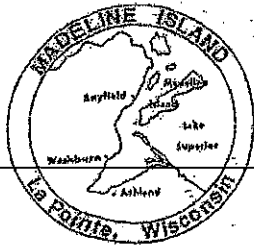
In August of 2008 I joined Representative Sherman at a law enforcement listening session in Ashland County. During that session Michael Anderson, Police Chief of the Town of La Pointe, brought to our attention that taxpayers must bear the additional costs after the ferry shuts down for the day of paying for a ferry between Bayfield for individuals who are arrested for drunk driving. There is no holding facility on the island and a special ferry is necessary to take the individual to the Bayfield County jail in Washburn. The cost of a special ferry run is between \$450 and \$600 per trip. Therefore Ashland county taxpayers absorb the cost of these ferry runs.

Assembly Bill 344 requires that when a person is arrested for operating a vehicle while intoxicated on an island after the usual hours of ferry operation, the individual will be responsible for any costs associated with a special ferry run.

AB 344 will require that an individual arrested and transported on one of these special ferry runs be required to reimburse the county for the full cost of transportation. This is a logical modification to current law and it ensures that the county is not unfairly burdened with these expenses. I strongly encourage you to support this reasonable and simple modification to current state law.

Madeline Island is a special place but the taxpayers ought not be burdened with these costs due to the reckless behavior of a motorist. The costs should be assigned to the responsible party, the individual whose behavior resulted in the arrest.

I join Representative Sherman in encouraging your support.



LA POINTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Michael W. Anderson, Chief

August 21, 2009

Representative Joe Parisi, Chair
Assembly Corrections and Courts Committee
Room 126 North
State Capital
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Parisi,

I am writing to express my support to introduce legislation amending 973.06 and 814.63 Wisconsin Statutes to provide that the expense of requesting a special ferry boat to transport a guilty offender for incarceration in a criminal or civil forfeiture case is a cost which the defendant pays and not the innocent taxpayers of the Town of La Pointe and Ashland County.

Currently, the cost of a special ferry trip is \$491.50 which can quickly decimate a small town police department's budget. Please consider taking the costly burden for these special ferry trips off of the backs of the taxpayers and onto those who are responsible for committing an unlawful act.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any one of the above options.

Sincerely,

Michael Anderson

Michael Anderson
Police Chief

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. R2008-0512A

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF LA POINTE REQUESTING LEGISLATIVE ACTION

WHEREAS, when the Town of La Pointe Police Department makes an arrest in the Town of La Pointe for a crime or forfeiture which necessitates incarceration outside the hours the ferryboat is operating, the Town of La Pointe Police Department has to call for a special ferryboat for transportation to the mainland, and

WHEREAS, the cost of a special ferryboat from La Pointe to the City of Bayfield is now \$466.50 and with the price of oil rapidly increasing, this cost is likely to also increase, and

WHEREAS, the cost of a special ferryboat is not a taxable cost which a convicted offender is required to pay although sometimes in a criminal case it can be made a part of the disposition, and

WHEREAS, rather than require the innocent taxpayers of the Town of La Pointe and Ashland County (which pays a portion of the La Pointe Police Department budget) to bear all the expense associated with these special ferryboat trips, it makes sense for Wisconsin Law to provide that such expense is a cost that a guilty offender in a criminal or civil forfeiture case is required to pay, and

WHEREAS, Town of La Pointe Police Chief Michael W. Anderson has discussed this issue with Tyler McGrane, Chief Officer on Washington Island in Door County and they are experiencing a similar problem,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of La Pointe does hereby request Representative Gary Sherman and State Senator Bob Jauch to introduce legislation amending §973.06 and §814.63 Wisconsin Statutes, so that they provide that money expended in transporting a defendant from an island in a criminal or civil forfeiture action is a cost which the defendant pays.

Dated at La Pointe, Wisconsin, this 12 day of AUGUST, 2008.

